



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the application of:

SAHASHI et al.

Serial Number: 09/735,664

Filed: December 14, 2000

REC
FEB 07 2002
GROUP 3600

Art Unit: 3629

Examiner: G. Binda

Attorney Dkt. No.: 100725-00026

8/1 election
to
2-1102

For: DRIVE WHEEL BEARING ASSEMBLY

RESPONSE TO ELECTION OF SPECIES REQUIREMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Date: January 29, 2002

Sir:

This election is being made in response to the Office Action dated November 29, 2001, the period for response being extended from December 29, 2001 until January 29, 2002, by the attached Petition for Extension of Time. The Action stated that the application comprised claims directed to twenty-one (21) distinct species. Under 35 U.S.C. §121, the Applicants are required to elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits. The distinct species identified are:

SPECIES	FIGURES
Species I	Figure 7
Species II	Figures 10 and 11
Species III	Figures 12 and 13
Species IV	Figure 14
Species V	Figure 15
Species VI	Figure 16
Species VII	Figure 21
Species VIII	Figures 23, 24 and 26

Species IX	Figure 25
Species X	Figure 27
Species XI	Figure 28
Species XII	Figure 29
Species XIII	Figure 30
Species XIV	Figure 31
Species XV	Figure 32
Species XVI	Figure 33
Species XVII	Figure 34
Species XVIII	Figure 35
Species XIX	Figure 37
Species XX	Figure 38
Species XXI	Figure 39

The Applicants respectfully submit that the Species in this application are directed to four (4) groups of inventions. The Groups correspond to the claims and Figures as follows:

GROUPS	CLAIMS	FIGURES
Group I	Claims 1-4, 7 and 13-18	Figures 1-9
Group II	Claims 5-8, 13-15, 17 and 18	Figures 10-13
Group III	Claims 9-15, 17 and 18	Figures 14-20
Group IV	Claims 19-37	Figure 21-39

Pursuant to the Examiner's requirement for an election, the Applicants elect to prosecute on the merit Group III, defined by Figures 14-20, currently claimed in claims

9-15, 17 and 18. The Applicants note that claims 9-15, 17 and 18 are readable on Species IV above, defined by Figure 14.

The Applicants also reserve the right to file a divisional application directed to the non-elected species.

With the above election, the Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in a condition for examination on the merits. An early examination and favorable action on claims 9-15, 17 and 18 is respectfully solicited.

In the event this paper is not considered to be timely filed, the Applicants hereby petition for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension, together with any additional fees that may be due with respect to this paper, may be charged to Counsel's Deposit Account No. 01-2300.

Respectfully submitted,



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